TITLE: SETTEE WITH A FOLDABLE TRAY-SUPPORT UNIT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a settee, more particularly to a settee with a foldable tray-support unit.

2. Description of the Related Art

Referring to Figure 1, a conventional settee 1 is shown to include left and right seat supports 11, an elongated seat 12 disposed between the seat supports 11, two backrests 14 that extend upwardly from a rear side of the seat 12, and a table 15 mounted on the elongated seat 12 between the backrests 14. The aforesaid conventional settee 1 is disadvantageous in that the table 15 cannot be folded relative to the seat 12, thereby restricting the utility of the conventional settee 1.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The object of the present invention is to provide a settee with a foldable tray-support unit so as to enhance flexibility of the settee during use.

Accordingly, a settee of the present invention includes an elongated seat unit and a tray-support unit. The seat unit includes a seat frame having opposing front and rear frame portions, and a backrest frame which extends uprightly from the rear frame portion

and which defines a tray-accommodating space. The tray-support unit includes a tray-support frame that has a lower frame section with a front end and a rear end opposite to the front end and pivoted to the rear frame portion of the seat frame in such a manner that the tray-support frame is rotatable relative to the seat frame between a storing position, in which, the front end of the tray-support frame is turned to and retained within the tray-accommodating space, and a used position, in which, the front end of the tray-support frame is seated on the seat frame.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Other features and advantages of this invention will become more apparent in the following detailed description of the preferred embodiments of this invention, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a conventional settee;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of a settee according to the present invention, with a tray removed therefrom;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary rear view of the preferred embodiment shown in Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary bottom perspective view of the preferred embodiment shown in Figure 2,

illustrating how a tray-support frame is mounted on a seat frame and its relation with a seat plate;

Figure 5 is a schematic side view of the preferred embodiment shown in Figure 2 with two seat supports removed therefrom, illustrating how a tray cover is mounted on the tray-support unit;

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the preferred embodiment with the tray-support unit folded on a backrest frame;

Figure 7 is a view similar to Figure 5 but with the tray-support unit folded on the backrest frame; and

Figure 8 is a perspective view of a modified preferred embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Before the present invention is described in greater detail with reference to the following preferred embodiments, it should be noted that same reference numerals have been used to denote similar elements throughout the specification.

Referring to Figures 1 to 4, a preferred embodiment of a settee according to the present invention is shown to include an elongated seat unit 3 and a tray-support unit 5.

As illustrated, the seat unit 3 includes a seat frame 31 having opposing front and rear frame portions 32,33, and a backrest frame 34 which extends uprightly from the rear frame portion 33 and which defines two

backrest supports 340 and a frame-accommodating space 341 located between and rearwardly of the backrest supports 340.

The tray-support unit 5 includes a tray-support frame 52 that has a lower frame section 521 with a front end 525 and a rear end 524 opposite to the front end 525 and pivoted to the rear frame portion 33 of the seat frame 31 in such a manner that the tray-support frame 52 is rotatable relative to the seat frame 31 between a storing position, in which, the front end of the tray-support frame 52 is turned to and retained within the tray-accommodating space 341, as best shown in Figure 6, and a used position, in which, the front end of the tray-support frame 52 is seated on the seat frame 31, as best shown in Figure 5.

The tray-support unit 5 includes a pivot plate 51 having a horizontal plate section 512 fixed on the rear frame portion 33 of the seat frame 31, a vertical plate section 513 which extends upwardly from the horizontal plate section 512 and which is formed with a vertical slot 514, and a pivot pin 53 that extends through the vertical slot 514 and the rear end 524 of the lower frame section 521 of the tray-support frame 52. The pivot pin 53 is movable upwardly and downwardly along the length of the vertical slot 514 so as to permit the tray-support frame 52 to be seated evenly on the seat plate 4. When the tray-support frame 52 is turned

to the storing position, as best shown in Figure 7, the pivot pin 53 moves in the vertical slot 514 toward the rear frame portion 33 of the seat frame 31 due to absence of the seat plate 4 on the rear frame portion 33.

The backrest frame 34 has an upper cross-bar 342 and a positioning member 35 mounted on the upper cross-bar 342. The front end 525 of the lower frame section 521 of the tray-support frame 52 releasably engages the positioning member 35 so as to retain the tray-support frame 52 at the storing position (see Figure 6).

The tray support unit 5 further includes a tray 54 seated on the tray-support frame 52, and a tray cover 55 pivoted on the tray-support frame 52 so as be movable, when the tray-support frame 52 is disposed at the used position, between a covering position, in which, the tray cover 55 conceals and covers the tray 54 underneath, as shown by solid lines in Figure 5, and a non-covering position, in which, the tray cover 55 is turned to and is retained in the frame-accommodating space 341, as shown by dotted lines in Figure 5, thereby exposing the tray 54 so as to be accessible from an exterior of the tray-support frame 52.

The tray-support frame 52 has an upper frame section in the form of spaced apart inverted U-shaped frame parts 522 which are fixed on the lower frame

section 521 and which extend between the front and rear frame portions 32,33 of the seat frame 31. The tray 54 is seated between the inverted U-shaped frame parts 522. The tray cover 55, preferably, includes a net 550 disposed over the inverted U-shaped frame parts 552, a U-shaped rod unit 551 surrounding the net 550, and a pair of U-shaped rod sections 552 which extend integrally from the rod unit 551 and which are pivoted to the inverted U-shaped frame parts 552 in such a manner that the U-shaped rod sections 552 rest on rear ends of the U-shaped frame parts 552 when the tray cover 55 is positioned at the non-covering position (shown by dotted lines in Figure 5).

The tray-support unit 5 further includes a fastener clasp 56 which is mounted on the rod unit 551 of the tray cover 55 and which releasably engages one of the inverted U-shaped frame parts 522 so as to prevent untimely movement of the tray cover 55 relative to the inverted U-shaped frame parts 522 from the covering position to the non-covering position when the tray-support frame 52 is disposed at the used position.

The preferred embodiment further includes left and right seat supports 2 between which the elongated seat unit 3 is disposed, and a connecting frame 22 that is disposed above the seat unit 3 and that interconnects upper ends of the left and right seat supports 2. The seat unit 3 is mounted swingeably to the connecting

frame 22 via two pairs of suspension rods 23 (see Fig. 2), such that the entire assembly can serve as a swing.

Referring to Figure 8, a modified preferred embodiment of the present invention is shown to have a structure similar to that of the previous embodiment. The main difference resides in that left and right seat supports 2 sandwich the seat unit 3 therebetween and that two opposite sides of the seat unit 3 are fastened securely to intermediate sections of the seat supports 2 via fastener devices.

While the present invention has been described in connection with what is considered the most practical and preferred embodiments, it is understood that the present invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiments but is intended to cover various arrangements included within the spirit and scope of the broadest interpretation so as to encompass all such modifications and equivalent arrangements.